

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter written to Dr. T. C. Stephens by our fellow member, Dr. P. A. Tavernier, of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Canada, is of such general interest that with the permission of both gentlemen it is reproduced here. Dr. Tavernier says:

I have just returned from a field trip to the South Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, for the Zoölogical Division of the Geological Survey of Canada. We spent a month from May 21st on Miscou Island, N. B., and then went to Percé, across the Bay of Chaleurs; where we spent the remainder of the season to August 23d, with side trips to Gaspé and a flying visit to the Magdalen Islands.

Most of the work after Miscou was put on sea birds and Bonaventure Island the famous Gannet breeding place, three miles from Percé was a mine of interesting experiences and at Gaspé we made an economic study of the Cormorant—*Phalacrocorax auritus*—in relation to the salmon fisheries and hope that incidentally we have gone far to stop the killing of these birds.

We obtained a fine series of skins of nearly all the sea species inhabiting these shores, showing the various summer plumages of the various ages.

We are also able to correct the generally reported identification that gives *P. carbo* as the breeding Cormorant of this section. They are in fact all *auritus*, and one of the interesting problems will be in future to map out the summer distribution of these two species on the St. Lawrence coasts.

Besides this expedition we have two others in the field yet. Dr. R. M. Anderson is collecting and second in command with the Canadian Arctic Expedition under Stephanson. Our latest reports from him were written last December, but at the time of his writing he was in good health and his collecting progressing most favorably and with the promises of most satisfactory results. Fortunately he was not with the ill-fated "Karlark," that was crushed in the ice and whose crew we are still anxiously waiting to hear of through the U. S. Revenue Ship Bear.

Mr. Francis Harper of Cornell, constitutes the Zoölogical section of another expedition crossing from Lake Athabasca to Great Slave Lake. His last report was dated Athabasca Lake, June 8th, when about to make the final traverse. His results so far seemed most satisfactory and doubtless his final report on return will continue the promise of the earlier work.

Yours sincerely,

P. A. TAVERNER.